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<u>Amendments to the Claims:</u>

Please cancel claims 1, 9 and 37-49 without disclaimer or prejudice to applicants' right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in a future continuation or divisional application.

Please add new claims 50-59 as set forth below.

1-49. (Canceled)

- 50. (New) A method of enhancing relaxation of a penile smooth muscle in a subject having heightened contractility of the penile smooth muscle, comprising the direct introduction and expression of a DNA sequence comprising a promoter sequence operably linked to a sequence encoding a potassium channel protein that enhances relaxation of the penile smooth muscle, into a sufficient number of penile smooth muscle cells of the subject to enhance relaxation of the penile smooth muscle in the subject.
- 51. (New) The method of Claim 50, wherein the potassium channel protein is a calcium-sensitive potassium channel protein.
- 52. (New) The method of Claim 50, wherein the potassium channel protein is a metabolically-gated potassium channel protein.
- 53. (New) The method of Claim 50, wherein the potassium channel protein is an inward rectifier potassium channel protein.
- 54. (New) The method of Claim 50, wherein the promoter is a smooth muscle specific promoter.

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55. (New) The method of Claim 51, wherein the calcium-sensitive potassium channel protein is maxi-K.

- 56. (New) The method of Claim 52, wherein the metabolically-gated potassium channel protein is K_{ATP} and the promoter is a smooth muscle specific promoter.
- 57. (New) The method of Claim 53, wherein the inward rectifier potassium channel protein is K_{ATP} and the promoter is a smooth muscle specific promoter.
- 58. (New) The method of Claim 55, wherein the promoter is a smooth muscle specific promoter.
- 59. (New) The method of Claim 50, wherein the DNA sequence is introduced by naked DNA transfer.